

Peer Review Plan

Preliminary Title: Retail Wastelands: Characteristics and Influential Factors of Food Deserts
Type of Report (ERR, EIB, EB) ERR

Agency: Economic Research Service [X] Influential Scientific Information
USDA [] Highly Influential Scientific Assessment
Agency Contact: Daniel Pick, dpick@ers.usda.gov

Subject of Review: In support of the proposed Healthy Food Financing Initiative, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service applied a census tract-level definition of food deserts—areas with limited access to affordable and healthy food—to the contiguous United States using 2000 Census data. As policymakers consider interventions to reduce limited food access, it is important to understand the level of hardship and other barriers that may be present in these food desert tracts—particularly those barriers which may be amenable to policy intervention. In this report, we therefore examine the socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the over 6,500 census tracts identified as food deserts, as well as how these tract-level characteristics changed in the decades before and after 2000. We also examine which of these characteristics distinguish food desert tracts from other low-income census tracts.

Purpose of Review: The purpose of the review is to ensure the high-quality of the economic analysis, transparent explanation of methods, objective interpretation of results, and effective communication to the intended audience.

Type of Review: [] Panel Review [X] Individual Reviewers
[] Alternative Process (Briefly Explain):

Timing of Review (Est.): Start: 02/09/12 End: XX/XX/XX Completed: XX/XX/XX

Number of Reviewers: [] 3 or fewer [X] 4 to 10 [] More than 10

Primary Disciplines/Types of Expertise Needed for Review: Economists

Reviewers selected by: [X] Agency [] Designated Outside Organization
Organization's Name:

Opportunities for Public Comment? [] Yes [X] No

If yes, briefly state how and when these opportunities will be provided:

How:

When:

Peer Reviewers Provided with Public Comments? [] Yes [X] No

Public Nominations Requested for Review Panel? [] Yes [X] No

